

18 January 2018

Lawrence Satherley
President
New Zealand Dairy Event

NZDE-Lawrence Satherley <lasatherley@inspire.net.nz>

Dear Lawrence

Thanks for your time today to discuss the current M. bovis issue and our concern about the inclusion of South Island cattle, especially from Southland and Canterbury in the NZ Dairy Event.

Our concern right now is that with further positive farms in Southland emerging and the recent ones in Canterbury, there is a real risk that this cattle show could inadvertently spread the disease – there could be a significant impact on New Zealand's reputation and on the cattle breeders who could potentially lose the entire genetic asset that they have built up over many years.

Although known positive M. bovis properties and high-risk ones associated with them are put under movement controls by MPI, the nature of this disease is such that infection is challenging to detect. MPI have not completed following up on all the tracings (links) to and from the more recent infected properties, and there could be other farms with M bovis as yet undetected. The concern being that any farms that would be sending animals to the event could be one of those farms. The risk of this is low but the consequences of accidentally spreading the disease would be devastating, with significant long term reputational risk to the event.

DairyNZ has been sending strong messages to all dairy farmers to consider very carefully the implications for all stock movements on and off farms and think about the biosecurity risks involved in transport and with comingling with other animals.

Although it will be a difficult thing for those farmers planning to attend, I'm sure they will understand that in this period of uncertainty, avoiding co-mingling of South and North island cattle would be in the best interests of the whole industry.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Mackle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".

Tim Mackle
Chief Executive